

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached nine (9) sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1-11. These sheets, which includes Figs. 1-11, replaces the original sheets including Figs. 1-11.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. Claims 1-17 and 20 stand rejected and claims 18 and 19 are objected to. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 18 and 19 are allowable. By this Amendment, claims 1-9, 11-13, and 16-19 are amended and new claims 21-26 are added. No new matter has been added. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action notes that the Information Disclosure Statement filed March 23, 2006, fails to comply with 37 CFR §1.98(a)(2). Applicants submit herewith a copy of that Information Disclosure Statement and a legible copy of the each foreign patent document cited therein. Applicants request that the Examiner acknowledge the foreign patent documents and return an initialed copy of the PTO/SB/08a form to the Applicants.

Drawings

The Office Action has objected to the figures. Applicants submit herewith nine (9) replacement sheets including Figures 1-11.

Figure 11 is objected to under 37 CFR §1.84(p)(5) for including reference characters not mentioned in the description. Applicants have corrected the reference characters in Figure 11 and amended the specification to include the reference characters now shown in Figure 11. No new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

Disclosure

The disclosure is objected to for various informalities. Specifically, serial numbers for the related applications were not originally included. The specification has been amended to include the serial numbers for the related applications. The disclosure is also objected to for not including a publication number for the unpublished EP application. Applicants have amended the specification to include a reference to corresponding U.S. Application serial 10/496,560, (EP 1 449 264). Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

The Examiner objects to the Brief Description of the Drawings. Applicants have amended the description of Figure 5 to explicitly describe Figures 5a-5d. Further, the variable c recited in claim 1 is now specified therein such that $c=0.001$ to 0.2 . Additionally, the description of Figure 11 has been amended, in accordance with the Examiner's comments, to better correspond with what is shown therein.

Finally, the Office Action objects to the specification for failing to provide antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter in claims 2, 6, and 16. Applicants have amended the specification in accordance with the Examiner's comments. Applicants note that no new matter has been added as support for the amendments can be found in the originally-filed claims (which constitute part of the specification).

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to the disclosure.

Objections to the Claims

Claim 11 has been objected to for missing a "Θ". Applicants have suitably amended claim 11.

Applicants have amended the claims to clarify the subject matter cited therein. Particularly, Applicants have amended the claims to remove the narrow ranges recited after a broader value. Also, the narrower ranges in claims 2-6 and 16 are recited in new dependent claims 21-26.

Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claims 3, 4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants have amended claims 3, 4, and 6 and the disclosure in accordance with the Examiner's comments. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7 and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. In accordance with the Examiner's remarks to more clearly define the invention, Applicants have amended the claims in a self-explanatory manner. Therefore, Applicants request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 USC §112, second paragraph.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-6, 8-17 and 20 are provisionally rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting in view of several co-pending applications. Applicants refrain from submitting a Terminal Disclaimer at this time until final resolution of the claims pending in the present application is reached and/or allowance of one or more of the other pending applications.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 8-13, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,061,024 ("Schmidt"); Claims 1, 2 and 8-16 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0156496 ("Takashima");

claims 1, 2 and 8-16 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as allegedly anticipated by WO 2004/039915 (“Himaki”); claims 1-3 and 8-16 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,717,315 (“Mueller”); claims 1-4 and 8-16 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly obvious in view of Schmidt; claims 1-5 and 8-16 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly obvious in view of Takashima; and claims 1-5 and 7-16 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as allegedly obvious in view of Himaki. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Among the limitations of independent claim 1 not present in any of the cited references is that “the level of W and Co impurities is less than 100 ppm.”

Applicants note that claim 18 is indicated as being allowable. Claim 18 recites precursor substance purity with respect to W and Co of less than 100 ppm. Applicants have incorporated this limitation into claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 in immediate condition for allowance.

By this Amendment, process claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the precursor substance purity with respect to W and Co of 100 ppm, as recited in amended claim 1.

Claims 2-16, 18, 19, and 20-26 ultimately depend from and contain all of the limitations of allowable independent claim 1 or 17. These dependent claims also recite additional limitations, which, in combination with the limitations of claim 1 or 17, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references. Therefore, claims 2-16, 18, 19, and 20-26 should be allowed.

Conclusion

Applicants have responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

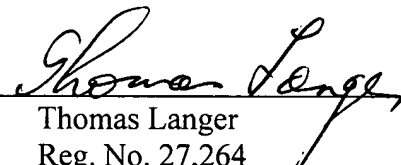
If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

A fee in the amount \$300.00 is due in payment for the addition of 6 new dependent claims.

Authorization to charge this fee to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412 has been given above.

Respectfully submitted,

COHEN PONTANI LIEBERMAN & PAVANE LLP

By 
Thomas Langer
Reg. No. 27,264
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210
New York, New York 10176
(212) 687-2770

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